Che Anti-Slavery Reporter



Aborigines' Friend.

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Quarterly Motes.

THE Society's Organising Secretaries, the Rev. J. H. and Mrs. Harris, are starting on their important African journey Investigation, at about the same time that this issue of the Reporter is published. The Committee feel much encouraged by the great amount of interest which has been taken in this enterprise, and the sympathy which has been extended to Mr. and Mrs. Harris in the private meetings of a farewell character which have been held in different parts of the country during the last few weeks. A list of contributors to the fund for the journey will be found on a subsequent page. The Committee are very sensible that the task which the Organising Secretaries have undertaken is an arduous one, involving responsibilities and dangers of no light kind. The strain of the last few weeks of preparation has been inevitably very heavy, but Mr. and Mrs. Harris set out with undaunted courage and hope, encouraged by the support of their many friends, and we have every reason to believe that their journey will have results of a very valuable and far-reaching kind for the whole work of the Society.

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but such re-contracts must be made by each native individually, and not en bloc as hitherto.

Another report from Lisbon, a few weeks ago, stated that the Government would in future seek for labour from Portuguese Guinea instead of Angola.

In view of these varying rumours, we have communicated with the Society's representative at Lisbon as to the position, who informs us that from different quarters bitter attacks have been made, denouncing our Society's recent deputation, Mr. W. A. Cadbury, and English "interference" generally, in unmeasured terms. The old accusations have been made in the Portuguese Press that the English opponents of slavery are cloaking personal interest under the guise of philanthropy. At a recent conference of the Agricultural Society, Senhor Francisco Mantero, a leading representative of the planters, gave an address, in which he defended the existing labour system in San Thomé, and bitterly attacked its English opponents. The lecturer on this occasion was introduced by the Colonial Minister, and Senhor A. da Silva acted as one of the secretaries. It will be seen from Sir Edward Grey's answer to a question in the House of Commons, reported on another page, that permission has been given for the importation of 300 serviçaes from Angola for the Island of San Thomé.

Parliamen-

This Committee, which gave promise of so much useful support to the Society's work in the last Parliament, has been re-organised in the new one and numbers about one Committee. hundred supporters. The first meeting was held at the House of Commons, on the 27th February, Mr. Noel

Buxton, M.P., occupying the chair, when sympathetic reference was made to the death of Sir Charles Dilke, who so admirably filled the post of Chairman of the former Committee. We are very glad to be able to announce that Mr. J. W. Wilson, M.P., has consented to act as his successor. Much dissatisfaction was expressed at the unfortunate developments in Lisbon, and particularly at the unrestrained attacks made upon those in England who have sought to bring about reforms in the Angola slave labour system. It was proposed to refer to this matter on the Foreign Office Vote. The questions of coolie labour and the shooting of Cape Kaffirs in German South-West Africa were also discussed, with a view to raising them in debate.

THE grave question of indentured labour has for some time been under the consideration of the Committee of Coolie the Society in especial connection with the report of Labour. Lord Sanderson's committee on Emigration from India to the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, which was issued last year, and interviews have been obtained by the Secretaries with the officials at the Colonial and India Offices in order to place before them the views of the Society, which have been set forth in the pamphlet by Mr. Harris on the subject. A deputation, consisting of the President, several members of the Committee, and some members of Parliament, was received by Colonel Seely on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 2nd February, who expressed himself as being in agreement with many of the recommendations put forward by the speakers, and took up an attitude on the general question extremely sympathetic with the Society's position.

The decision of the Government of India to prohibit the further recruitment of Indian indentured coolies for labour in Natal under existing conditions was a source of satisfaction to our Society, and the Committee has passed a resolution expressing its appreciation of that Government's action, which was forwarded to the Secretary of State for India, with the request that it might be forwarded to the Indian Government, and has been acknowledged.

Under the heading, "Cruelties in Rubber Collecting," The Native Cruel- Times South American Supplement of February 28th pubties in Peru. lished the following paragraph:—

"About a year ago, Truth published some revelations of a 'Darkest Africa' type with respect to horrors then being perpetrated on the Putumayo by Peruvians. A Peruvian Commission of Inquiry has been appointed, and it is believed that, if they publish the facts which they cannot fail to obtain, their report will be startling.

"Some four years ago an association for the protection of natives was founded in Lima, and it has to-day branches all over the country, and enjoys the support and sympathy of the Lima Press of all political shades. The natives, too, having become aware of its services, are quickly availing themselves of its aid. Glancing at a Report of a recent Committee Meeting of the Asociación Pro-Indigena, that of January 20th, I find that the Inambarí-Pará Rubber Estates, Limited, a company registered in London, and whose directorate are highly respectable City people, are mentioned in two separate denunciations of acts of cruelty perpetrated by their agents. . . . Besides the company just mentioned, another, said to be registered in London, but which until quite recently was a Boston, N.H., concern, is. named, and without hinting at anyone in particular, the writer says that were an account of the revolting cruelties perpetrated on the natives to be printed it would be regarded as an exaggeration and would make the reader's hair stand on end. Unfortunately, too, these lands are adjacent to or are situated in disputed territories, and the victims are undoubtedly the real owners of the soil, but their title is derived from and is similar in date to that of Adam and Eve. It has, therefore, in the eyes of the law no value; naturally these primitive people resent the advent of the white man and all that his arrival brings with it."

[It should be added that the Chairman of the first-named Company wrote to *The Times* of February 16th, stating that there was not the slightest foundation for the charges, and that the Company courted full investigation.]

Trouble Hebrides.

DISQUIETING reports have been received for some long time past of labour difficulties and of abuses connected with the in the New importation of liquor by recruiters in these islands. On the one side it is alleged by missionaries and others that the Anglo-French Convention has been grossly violated by

French recruiters of labour, liquor and cartridges being freely sold to the natives, and wives and children kidnapped. British traders, who are prohibited from introducing liquor by the terms of the London Convention, have thus, it is said, been put at an unfair disadvantage. On the other hand, the French accuse the English missionaries of preventing their getting labour and maintaining "an intolerable attitude." Serious friction has undoubtedly existed between the two parties, and the Joint Court in the islands, which was opened at the end of November last, has a difficult task before it to deal with the questions which come before it in a manner satisfactory to both the Powers.

Our Society has been in communication with the Colonial Office on certain definite abuses which have been brought before it, but on the more important general question we are awaiting replies from missionaries in the New Hebrides, to whom letters have been addressed.

Native Question.

WE draw attention to two noteworthy pronouncements on The African this subject in recent speeches. From H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught's speech at the African Society's dinner, on February 22nd:-

"There is one thing that I would like to mention, and that is that I hope that we shall never forget that these natives (of East Africa) have been there for centuries, that they have their traditions, their nationalities, and their religions. Therefore, if we wish to deal with them, it must be through their chiefs. I have seen them myself and they are a very fine body of men, and I am convinced that if they are sympathetically, firmly, and properly governed you will make a great deal out of them. There is no doubt that one of the great problems in Africa generally is native labour. You can only get native labour by getting your natives to work for you sympathetically. If you treat them harshly, if you treat them without any consideration, I think your difficulties will be increased. If, on the reverse, you treat them as I believe you are treating them at the present moment, you will not have difficulties."

Sir Richard Solomon, High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, in a paper read before the Royal Society of Arts (Colonial Section) on the 28th February, said that-

The problem which over-shadowed all others in South Africa in difficulty and far-reaching effects was the native question. No man living to-day could forecast its ultimate solution. A sound native policy must be slowly and naturally developed, and in that development the only course was to adhere to the good sound principles of justice, freedom, and toleration. The action of the Union Government in the release of Dinuzulu and of the other native chiefs banished to St. Helena under sentence for rebellion by courts-martial, as well as the repeal of Natal compulsory native labour law, were encouraging signs of the Government's attitude towards this problem.

Annual Meeting of the Society.

THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on Friday afternoon, March 3rd. The President, Sir T. Fowell. Buxton, as usual, occupied the chair, and special features of the meeting were a speech by Sir Godfrey Lagden and the farewell to the Rev. J. H. and Mrs. Harris prior to their journey to West Central Africa and the Congo. Those present included, besides the speakers, Lord Monkswell, Rev. H. R. Gamble, Rev. F. B. Meyer, Professor Westlake, Mr. J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., Sir Henry Cotton, Mr. G. P. Gooch, Mr. C. Roden Buxton, Mr. Francis W. Fox, etc.

The Chairman said: I remember that last year we had to lament the loss of Sir William Brampton Gurdon, and also our colleague, Lord Monkswell. We have never ceased to regret the loss occasioned by their death, and now we have to record the very great loss which has come to us through the death of Sir Charles Dilke. I think it was rather noticeable that among the notices of his life in the newspapers, there was almost a total absence or reference to his work in connection with the treatment of weaker races. We know how valuable that work was. (Hear, hear.) We know how very real and earnest was his sympathy, and how great his knowledge and information on all that might bear upon their condition, their treatment by Governments and other people, and the state of things that surrounded them both in the English colonies and the protectorates of other countries. It will be very difficult indeed to fill his place, and I am sure we shall always look back with the greatest regret to his being no longer with us to take part in these matters.

I cannot help referring also to the death of Mr. Francis Colenso, who himself, as well as all his family, had shown such great interest in the Kaffirs of South Africa, and to whom they are so largely indebted. And all the more do they deserve our sympathy because of the very widespread and outspoken hostility with which they are often regarded among their neighbours in South Africa. I am sure we cannot help feeling that we have lost a great deal by the departure of those two men.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those members of our Society who went on the deputation to Lisbon lately to urge the interests of the labourers from Angola who are taken to work on the cocoa plantations of Principe and San Thomé. It was an arduous business, and we thank them very much for the trouble they took in going there, and all that they

did when there. I think it illustrates what is, and I hope always will be, our policy, that we would very much rather act in sympathy with people in countries like Portugal or Belgium, or wherever there are those who have a real and genuine interest and sympathy with the native races. Where people are endeavouring to obtain good treatment instead of bad treatment of such races, we would rather support those people than bring pressure to bear from outside. (Hear, hear.) We have often reason to feel that their activity is not as genuine as we might wish, but where it is possible I am sure it is our wish to do all we can to help those who we think are taking the right course in opposition to those who in the great majority of cases are taking the wrong course.

But we have not only to look to the state of things in countries like Portugal and Belgium, but we must keep a very close eye and very attentive notice on what goes on in our own colonies. (Hear, hear.) We must remember that whatever defect there is in the government of any one of our colonies is sure to be made the most of, to be exaggerated, and to be brought forward as a reason for much greater misdoing in other countries. That is immensely important. We have always recognised that we should endeavour to keep affairs in our own colonies and protectorates clean and fair and honest, because of the great mischief that may be brought upon other countries by our bad example. I hope we shall never forget the immense importance of maintaining a right attitude in our dominions. Very often, in the matter of land tenure or the control of native labour, there are incidents which we cannot approve, though they are widely known here, but which are sure to be exaggerated and made the excuse for malpractices in the Congo or Angola. We have to remember the very great difficulty and the increasing trouble of maltreatment which has arisen throughout the world because of the great development in the exploitation of tropical products. We have a great demand for rubber, which up to the present is largely found in native forests in the neighbourhood of weak races in tropical districts. That great demand for rubber has led to the mischief that we believe has been going on in the Congo, and also in the upper waters of the Amazon and the Putumayo rivers. Then again, the demand for cocoa has been the reason of the excesses in the illtreatment of natives in Portuguese dominions, while the growth of sugar, too, has in various cases led to excessive driving among coolies and those who have been brought up in sugar producingcountries in a way which we cannot approve. Then again, there are certain fibres which are grown in the hot countries, and the working of them has led to a great deal of mischief in connection with the treatment of natives in India and about the dependencies of Mexico.

I allude to these things because they show there is an increase in the demand for labour, even in better-governed countries like South Africa. Lately there was a very interesting lecture given by the Agent-General on

the state of things in South Africa. Well, in every department he showed that the increase of prosperity and enterprise in various directions—mines, agriculture and irrigation—caused a general demand for labour, and enterprise was checked because labour was not sufficient. That, in itself, creates hunger for labour, and very often we know how the regulations relating to the acquisition of land may be used to drive people away from their usual farming or pastoral occupation, in order to compel them to live on the wages they earn in mines and in other ways. I am quite sure these matters will not fail to occupy our attention. We must endeavour to give every help to genuine enterprise, to genuine expenditure of English capital, and the advancement of English settlers; but for all that it can go along, and it will be far better that it should go along, with perfectly fair employment of labour for wages, rather than by any form of compulsion (cheers). That we recognise is our principle, and it is one which I hope we are never going to lose sight of.

There are many speakers whom we are wishing to hear, but we have one disappointment which has come to our knowledge only to-day, and that is the Rev. Percy Dearmer, who writes deeply regretting that he will be unable to attend, on account of the death of his mother, and asking me, as Chairman, to tell the meeting how deeply he sympathises with its objects.

The PRESIDENT then called upon Mr. Travers Buxton, the Secretary of the Society, to read some letters of apology.

Extracts from letters were read from the BISHOPS OF SOUTHWARK (recently appointed to Winchester) and Oxford, who regretted inability to attend owing to diocesan business. The Earl of Mayo and Sir George White, M.P., had written expressing their good wishes for Mr. and Mrs. Harris, and Canon Scott Holland hoped that the meeting would be a strong one. In his opinion the mission of Mr. and Mrs. Harris was likely to be of extreme value.

The CHAIRMAN then moved the adoption of the Report and the reelection of the Committee and officers, and called upon Dr. Hodgkin to second the motion.

Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, in seconding the adoption of the Report, said: I shall detain you only a very few minutes, because there are other speakers whom you and I are anxious to hear. I am allowed to allude to one fact which happens to be one with which my mind is full at present, and that is the death, which is just announced in the newspapers to-day, of my old friend, Dr. Spence Watson. Though he was chiefly connected with another great philanthropic cause—we always thought of him as a great peace advocate—I know that he had also a great inherited interest in the anti-slavery cause, of which his father was a very great supporter, and he was a Vice-President of this Society. In the field of philanthropy the death of that great man will leave a great blank. Unhappily the last two years of his life have been

clouded by disease, and he has not been able to take any part in public work; but in the North of England, from which I come, we shall greatly miss his presence in many and many a good cause, for he had indeed a true enthusiasm for humanity, and nothing which concerned the welfare of the race was considered alien by him.

Mr. Hodgkin then stated that he represented the founder of the Aborigines Protection Society, his uncle, the late Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, who died more than forty years ago, having devoted his life to the salvation, so far as it was possible, and the preservation of the existence and happiness of the aboriginal races of mankind. This was, indeed, the passion of his life, and though he was a great and distinguished physician, medical science and everything else was subordinated in his mind to his earnest desire that the aboriginal races of mankind should be protected from that exploitation to which they are apt to be subjected by their stronger and cleverer neighbours. The speaker continued:-I think it is a most happy circumstance that the two Societies have been amalgamated as they now are, because their objects are really, and seem to be increasingly, one and the same. In both cases our object is to protect and guard the weaker races, the childlike races, the backward races of mankind, from oppression and enslavement and cheating by their cleverer neighbours. It is necessary that there should be some agency at work for their protection. We had all hoped that slavery had been cast out of the body politic; cast out of the whole human race. Some of us had hoped that that last dreadful struggle in America, between the North and the South, with all its horrors, had at least produced this benefit—that it had sounded the death-knell of slavery, and that there was no longer to be slavery in the world. But we know, alas, that this is not so. It comes back in more plausible forms. It is sometimes indentured labour. I do not know what name they give in the Congo to that most horrible form of slavery and oppression which has been practised there. It comes back under other names, but the spirit is still the same, and even worse. It is like that which our Lord spoke of: The evil spirit has been cast out and it returns to find its old home empty, swept and garnished (as, for instance, in the so-called Congo Free State), but, under various names, it takes to itself seven devils, and the last state of the house is infinitely worse than the first. And it is against this everrecurring crime of sin and slavery and oppression of the weaker races of mankind that this great Society has to contend. It is strange and sad to see how this dealing with the child-like races of mankind seems to bring out all the best and all the worst of human nature. When one thinks of the toil expended by saintly men and women in some of the dark places of the world in rescuing those child-like, dark-skinned neighbours of ours, one sees how much of the angel there is in humanity. Then, alas, one hears of the horrible cruelties practised by the agents of the Concessionaires of these companies which are earning these fabulous dividends, made out

of the exertions of the subject races of mankind, such as those unhappy native races on the Congo; when one hears of the scarred backs and the amputated limbs and all the other horrors, we feel there is unfortunately in man a devil as well as an angel. What we have to do is to try our utmost to protect our weaker brethren against the horrible cruelties which men, dressed "in a little brief authority," sometimes practise upon them. (Cheers.) I have great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Report.

The Resolution to adopt the Report and re-elect the Committee and officers was then put and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. E. WRIGHT BROOKS, the Treasurer, then made a short financial statement, referring first to the special expenses that were incurred last year by the deputation of Mr. and Mrs. Burtt to America, in the interests of the abolition of the slave labour in the cocoa plantations of the Islands of San Thomé and Principe; and, secondly, to the expenses of the deputation to Lisbon, which had been referred to in undeservedly complimentary terms by the Chairman. He (Mr. Brooks) was one of that deputation, and thought that though they brought home with them but little in the shape of assurances of good effected, or to be effected, yet that no effort of that kind, honestly put forward, was ever thrown away, and though the results might not be immediate, yet results would arise, perhaps in the not distant future. The expenses of those two deputations were £448 19s. 5d. They hardly knew yet what the annual normal expenditure of the united Society would be, but it was anticipated that it would be something like £1,500 a year, and that the normal income of the Society would come to only about £1,100 a year. He hoped that this information would be spread around so that the money that would be necessary to maintain the growing and increasing activities of the amalgamated Society might be provided. Active work of that kind required money, and he trusted that the sympathies of those whose hearts had been given to the work of the Society on behalf of the down-trodden among their fellow creatures would be aroused to assist in putting the Society into a satisfactory financial position.

The Chairman, in calling upon Sir Godfrey Lagden, referred to his great South African reputation.

Sir Godfrey Lagden: Although I am not a member of either of the Societies which have lately been incorporated, I may say that for many years I have kept myself familiar with all the great work that has been done by these Societies, and this work always had my warm sympathy and support and whatever assistance I could give it. Now, I have been asked to give you to-day a very brief address on the subject of the Native College which it is proposed to establish in South Africa, and for which a public appeal has already been made by the South African Native Races Committee. I am not here for the purpose of explaining the scheme of this College which I cordially support, but I have come in response to a request

that I would state in a few words from experience the reasons which lead me to believe that there is a pressing need for this Institution. I can best do so by presenting to you certain facts and features, leaving you to form your own judgment. Now, we must remember first of all that opinions differ very widely in South Africa, and that the subject there is, I may say, highly contentious. We cannot disguise from ourselves the fact that a considerable section of the white people in South Africa, by no means an unimportant section in numbers or position, is opposed to the higher education of natives, and indeed, very largely, to any education at all being given to natives. They consider that the natives are better without education; that there is no occasion for it, and that they are better off without it, that in fact, education does not enable them to earn any higher wages, and that they cannot turn it to any useful advantage. I do not endorse those views, but we have to reckon with them.

It is clear, however, that of late years there has been a great revulsion of feeling in South Africa, and that many leading men there, who were formerly antagonistic, are now quite reconciled to the broader view that changes are inevitable in this respect of native education. Several forces have operated to bring about that change of feeling, but none, I think, have had more influence than the Report of the South African Native Affairs Commission, of which I had the great honour to be the Chairman. That Commission was composed of men of all shades of thought, some of whom, though kindly enough disposed in general to the aboriginals, approached their labours on that Commission with strong prejudices. Yet when the evidence, extending as it did over two whole years, had been heard, and we sat down to consider honestly the terms of our Report, I rejoice to say that conviction rose above prejudice, and that in the end the document was unanimously signed without a dissentient note. (Cheers.) That I believe to have been a very great triumph, considering what a thorny problem it was.

But though the Governments as a whole in South Africa, and many of the leaders of thought in that country, approved of this Report, there remained a strong body of the public who dissented from some of its principles which were there expressed, and that body is in evidence to-day, and if opinion in that Colony is divided on the subject of the higher education of natives, and the men on the spot exercise restraint in discussing it, it is well for us here in England, without any surrender of our opinions or of our enthusiasm in regard to it, to be guarded in our utterances. What, after all, we wish to do is to gain public support for the College scheme, and if that is to succeed we have to win for it sympathy in South Africa. With sympathy, much may be done to further it; without sympathy, the idea will always excite opposition, I may say grave opposition, and become liable to be treated on party lines, which is the very worst thing that could ever happen to it.

Now, I should like to allude for a moment briefly to the facts about natives and education. First of all, it was fifty years after the British occupation before we can trace any sign of schools. Then the London Missionary Society, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the French Protestant Society, and the Wesleyans and other kindred societies commenced their great work in different spheres. Struggling as they did against every kind of superstition and adversity, they established a few rudimentary schools in all the great native territories. They had all the while to battle with the hostility of the chiefs and the prejudices of the white man, but when once some of the leading chiefs agreed to educate their own children the cause was practically won; and whereas, before the Kaffir wars in the 'seventies, only a few thousand of native scholars were enrolled in the whole of South Africa, in 1911 the number of native scholars on the school books approximated to a quarter of a million. (Cheers.) Now, I venture to say, that is an educational revolution. Though the number of a quarter of a million may not seem very large to us in England, because we think in millions of scholars, it is large indeed when compared with the population itself, and when further it is remembered that there is no compulsion to go to school, and no inducement on the part of the children to do so, except the desire to learn. (Hear, hear.)

I must come next to the solid fact which is beyond any dispute or question, namely, that there is at the present moment a positive craving on the part of the natives to learn and to be taught. They have been encouraged to it by the missionaries, by the magistrates, and by other right-minded people, and their schools receive patronage and Government grants-in-aid. But the causes of this craving are immaterial. The point of the whole thing is, they have caught the inspiration for education, and will not be denied. There are not now-and here I speak from knowledge—any chiefs or head-men, I believe, in the whole of South Africa—I mean head-men of any consequence—who do not wish to have schools in their own villages, and there are few families scattered through the areas of native occupation who do not strive by all reasonable means in their power to send their children to school somewhere or other. It is true that many facilities are now offered them. Missionary effort has extended far and wide, to such an extent indeed that the schools are within reach of the great majority. The education is, however, with a little exception, quite elementary, and it may be admitted that for the great majority of children, the elementary There are one or two standards serve the purpose of present wants. secondary schools in the Cape Colony and the Transkei, and one in Basutoland, but they are limited in capacity, and do not profess to give advanced education. Now, what we have to consider is that the same impulse which prompted nearly a quarter of a million of children within the space of quite a few years to go and learn their A B C is now prompting a proportion who have passed through the first stages of education to go

higher, and to go to the highest levels. Furthermore, they are not only eager to do so, but they are ready to pay for it with their own money. (Cheers.) But it is difficult for them to accomplish their desire. They are not admissible in the higher schools where white children go, and therefore the opportunities open to them are restricted-almost, I may say, nonexistent. And I will ask, what has been the result? It has caused among the native populace heart-burnings; it has checked their lawful ambitions, and it has had the effect of driving some of the best, most enterprising and intellectual, to seek elsewhere what was denied to them in their own land. Some of them who sought education in America, have found it there, but of a very noxious order, and they have returned to South Africa to become neither good nor useful citizens. I am not going to say anything detrimental to these poor natives who, as I say, have been driven to America, because I consider it to have been more their misfortune than their fault that they should have been sent to America and have come back with an evil education.

For these, among other reasons, I consider it essential to place within reach of every native who aspires to it, the means of acquiring in his own land the higher education he asks for, and is prepared to pay for. believe it will meet a great and crying want, and will help to sustain the native population in that loyalty to the Crown for which they have always been so conspicuous, for, it is certain, to my mind, that the natives of strong intelligence and education will eventually become the leaders of thought. But the College Scheme that has been proposed will serve another great purpose. It will provide for the hundreds of native schools, now established all over the country, competent and qualified teachers, who are badly needed. There is, I believe, no greater need in South Africa to-day than for good native teachers, and let us remember that the character of the people will in the end be very largely formed by the character of their teachers. The old tribal system, with its useful discipline, is fast breaking up. It is therefore of the highest importance to give the natives now the best guidance possible, so as to train them up to the new civilisation which is being forced upon them. That can best be done by teaching them self-respect, and by widening their intellectual outlook.

In conclusion, whilst offering my warm encouragement to this Scheme for a Native College in South Africa, let me express the opinion, which is confirmed by the highest authorities, that education has had a beneficial influence on the natives by raising their intelligence and increasing their usefulness as members of the community. I know that that is a disputed point. I know there are a great many people in South Africa who do not agree with me. I have spent thirty years of my life there. I have had no axe to grind there except to do my duty, and I have come to the conviction that what I have said is absolutely true, that the effect of education on the native has been beneficial to him as a man and as a

citizen. There is a moral obligation upon us, upon the British people and the British Government, to promote the intellectual development of our subject races, and if we are to adopt towards them a liberal and sympathetic attitude, it must be our policy to provide the opportunities for their advancement. (Cheers.) Nothing is more conducive to make our native subjects contented, law-abiding and progressive than that they should feel that their Government and the White Race are united in the desire to afford them every reasonable facility, not only to raise their standard of life, but to rise to the highest level which they are capable of attaining. (Cheers.)

Mr. P. A. Molteno, M.P., referring to the previous speaker's profoundly interesting statement, said that Sir G. Lagden spoke with an unrivalled experience. He was one of those British administrators who had carried British administration and even-handed justice into Africa, and had assisted in the development of a native people. He thought that his words ought to carry the greatest weight with all who are interested in a subject of this kind, and that we ought to do all we could to assist in the splendid programme of providing for the higher education of the native and for those who are to be their leaders of thought.

Mr. Molteno then spoke of the great loss sustained by the Society in the death of Sir Charles Dilke, with whom he had worked closely in Parliament, where they felt his loss to be almost irreparable.

Turning to the question of South Africa, Mr. Molteno said: I should like to say a few words on the same subject on which Sir Godfrey Lagden has spoken, but from rather a different point of view. We have consummated there the Union of all the States of South Africa, and for us here the important consideration is—what bearing has that Union upon the welfare and prosperity and the happiness of the native races of South Africa. In all these questions, where you have white men and men of other races, the great point always is-while you may entrust the white man to look after his own affairs, can you always entrust him, or has he reached that state of development, politically, socially, and morally, that you can entrust the affairs of a subject race to these same white men? They can deal with their own affairs quite well, but can they deal with the affairs of a subject race? It is always difficult to entrust and hand over subject races to our fellow-colonists in our own colonies. With regard to South Africa, so far as the old Cape Colony is concerned, they were entrusted with that great trust, and I think we may say they carried it out worthily. The condition of the natives, when it joined the union, was one that we could look upon with the greatest satisfaction, because everything had been done to give them an opportunity of advancing themselves. They had been protected in all ways, and they were making a beginning, and an encouraging beginning, in the matter of assimilating and benefiting thoroughly by our civilisation.

Now, if the policy which had been so successful in Cape Colony is to be administered and applied to the rest of South Africa, I think we may have considerable assurance in the hope that the Union of South Africa is going to be of great benefit to the native race there. I would particularly refer to Natal, where considerable trouble had taken place. To-day the wider experience, and the calmer atmosphere in which decisions are taken—away from Natal, not on the spot, where feelings are sometimes violent—have led, since the Union came into being, to the release of Dinuzulu—(cheers)—and that has now been followed by the release of Tilonko and all political prisoners without exception. That has been very satisfactory.

Then there is another matter. Four years ago I moved in the House of Commons for a return of all systems of compulsory labour throughout the British Empire, and that return was made in the year 1908. There was only one self-governing colony, I am glad to say, in that return shown to possess any system of compulsory labour. There were systems in some of our Crown Colonies where, you may say, it was more or less of a compulsory character, but in Natal there was a system of compulsory labour which was wide-spread and was largely used, and which, in the opinion of the natives, inflicted hardship upon them. The Commission to which Sir Godfrey Lagden referred reported on that system, and mentioned the dissatisfaction and hardship felt by the natives. I am glad to be able to say that one of the first acts of the Union Government has been to bring about the complete and total abolition of that system of compulsory labour. (Cheers.) I believe, further, that a much more sympathetic administration of native affairs is likely to take place, not only in Natal, but in other portions of South Africa in consequence of this Union. I have the pleasure of knowing personally the Minister of Native Affairs. He is thoroughly sympathetic and determined to do his duty in this respect. The Union Ministry also contains a life-long friend of all the natives and one who is interested in their advancement. I refer to Mr. Sauer. In the presence of these two men we have a guarantee that we shall see a policy of this kind carried out in the Union Ministry.

The speaker then adverted to the recent unfortunate occurrence in German East Africa, where a number of Cape Kaffirs were shot down, as an illustration of the danger which arises when you remove natives from their own friends, and take them to a distant place, and put them in a position where they cannot take care of themselves as they could if they had remained at home. It was an illustration of what might occur at any time in any other place.

If any one would look at the General Report of the Society they would see how wide is the work which still remains to be done by a society of this kind. Those who support it are really doing an immense service to humanity. We, to-day, who were entrusted with the privilege of carrying on the great traditions of the past would make it our object to see that they were successfully supported and maintained. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN then called on Mrs. Harris, expressing the sympathy which all felt for her and Mr. Harris in the long and arduous journey for which they had volunteered.

Mrs. J. H. Harris, who was received with cheers, said she would only say how very encouraging it was to them, almost on the eve of their journey, to meet so many friends of the native races. It would be a source of strength to them to realise that they had their sympathies with them, and that their sympathies were continually going out to those oppressed people in whose cause they were making the journey. They looked forward to the time when they would meet again, probably a year hence, and they hoped and anticipated that they would have a better record to bring back than was the case six years ago. (Cheers.)

The Rev. R. C. GILLIE: In this audience, it must seem a work of supererogation to justify the existence of this noble Society, which in its two-fold form has such a fine record of achievement, and yet, I suppose we should be living in a fool's paradise if we forgot the critics outside. It is better to recognise them. I suppose there are still a good many people who resent the very existence of this Society. There are others who criticise its methods, and look upon its members as meddlers in affairs which are not their business, while there are others who would be inclined to give us their advice-to sweep our own national doorstep quite clean before we attend to other people's. I suppose it is conceivable to us all that such a Society might very easily fall into one or other of these snares. It might be a self-righteous Society, giving some cause for belief in that phrase sometimes flung at England, that it is "a Pharisee among the nations." And it would be quite possible for this Society to devote itself to unimportant and trivial cases of hardship, losing all sense of proportion, to pay so much attention to cases of hardship among other nations, that we should forget national injuries amongst people directly dependent upon us. What has impressed me on the Committee has been the very striking way in which the Committee has avoided these several snares, with an absence of anything like sentimentalism, or anything like a desire to exploit wounded humanity for the sake of sensationalism. (Hear, hear.) The Committee has spent its time and labour, has devoted care and acumen to an extraordinary degree, first, to test the facts concerning any complaint, and then, in the quietest way possible, to see that the injuries were redressed or the wrongs righted. In fact, if there is any criticism of the work of this Society, it is that it is done so quietly that people sometimes do not know how much is being done, and how watchful an eye it keeps on the evils connected with the aboriginal races, and also possible approaches to slavery in various quarters. To my mind, the fact is absolutely clear, that this Society was

never more wanted than it is to-day, and for two reasons: Partly to help Governments and Government officers to uphold the ideal of justice, which is the honour of England, and partly to focus and guide public opinion. Very easily, especially where white people are living in sparsely populated communities, amongst those of weaker and poorer morality, whose ideals are waning, we almost unconsciously find even the best-intentioned officials will develop too much the official type of mind which is not inclined to watch too carefully for injuries against those whom they govern. Now, it seems to me that this Society can be of immense service in quickening the moral sensitiveness, both of officers of Governments and of the Governments themselves. I sometimes think the Society acts like the "finder" which is alongside a large telescope. The "finder" is used so that the larger focus of the telescope shall be brought to bear upon the right object in the heavens. Without the "finder" the large telescope might easily be made to look at the wrong thing, or it might miss the object altogether. This Society brings to the notice of foreign Governments wrongs that it either knows or suspects, and so helps that Government to really fasten its attention on these possible injuries. Its services in this direction seem to me to be very great, and as a humble member of the Free Churches it seems to me that its services as a conductor and guide of public opinion are most important. At least in the Free Churches there is a great body of moral conviction which wants to be led. It wants to be clarified. It is sometimes very crude. When it makes a fire there is sometimes a great deal of smoke. When it attempts to put out the fire there is a good deal of splashing, which would not be the case if there was a body to focus, direct, guide, and inform it. It seems to me that this Society performs a very important function in these respects, and the more it is able to make public its results the more effectually will the Society's work be done. As an exact instance of what I mean, here is the case of the Congo. The conscience of many people has been outraged by what has been heard of the Congo limbs and sores and disgraces of the past. Now, we are assured that practically everything is all right, but we want to know and we want to be sure. (Cheers.) If Mr. and Mrs. Harris return after their journey with an admirable account that everything is beautifully arranged, that the natives are admirably cared for, and that all the old black story of shame is over and past, no one will rejoice more than we shall, but we want to know; and this Society is doing very admirable service in arranging for Mr. and Mrs. Harris to go in person to these places, and we wish them most heartily God-speed, all success on their journey, and a safe return. (Cheers.)

I have also been very much struck in studying the work of the Society by the patience with which they are prepared at times to take up individual cases of hardship and injury. Some people may be inclined to think that that is where a Society like this wastes its power, but I do not think so. A little trickle of water may be perfectly insignificant if it is in an ordinary channel, but if it is coming through a crack in the dyke which protects great lands, it is of extreme significance, and must be stopped at once. Fifty cases of small-pox in a great city of five million people will mean very little, but if these fifty cases are going to be the herald of a perfect epidemic then they are most significant. Now, it seems to me that this Society regards cases of hardship and cases of injury very much in the same fashion. What does it matter if a slave boy, or a servant boy who is almost a slave on the West African coast, is flogged and ill-treated? It is a mere nothing when the great machine of Commerce is driving ahead! Yes, but if that instance means innumerable other instances, what then? (Hear, hear.) This Society says :- "We will deal with the first case that meets us. We will make our protests. We will endeavour to secure that these poor people—half children, half men—that need our protection shall have it." (Cheers.) It is for reasons like this that the Society appeals so strongly to myself, and I think I may say, speaking in some measure as a representative of the Free Churches for many of their members, I am persuaded that as the knowledge of the very good work of this Society extends, as it is sure to extend in the coming years, that support, both financial and moral, which is required, will certainly not be withheld. (Cheers.)

Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P.: I have been asked to say a word or two about the work in Parliament. We who attempt to maintain the cause in Parliament are very deeply indebted to the Society, and particularly to its two secretaries, for keeping us up to the mark. We are victims of innumerable causes who attempt to pull us in one direction and another, and very often in opposite directions, and those who pull the hardest get the most out of us. We want looking after, and we want to be kept straight and to be told what information should be brought forward by us, and we are absolutely dependent upon efficient help such as we do get from the Society. Now, we have had this new Parliamentary Committee going for about a year, and I think, thanks to the help that we have received, we may say that it has been a success. We, as a Committee, in the same way as the Society, have suffered perhaps an irreparable loss by the death of Sir Charles Dilke. We all feel it, and it will be a long time before we cease to feel it, and we are conscious of a great responsibility in attempting to stop the breach. Let me tell you that we have done very well indeed in finding a successor to Sir Charles. We have asked Mr. John W. Wilson, who is very well known in the House, and Chairman of one of the Grand Committees, and only yesterday he informed me that he was willing to serve. (Cheers.) He has himself just suffered an immense loss, and that is why he is not here to-day. But we are all delighted—not merely the members of one party, but members of all parties—to have hit upon such an excellent Chairman, I do not think we could have done better. We want to be a nonparty body. Whatever party is in power, it is exceedingly desirable to have supporters not only in that party but in the other, because they are of use from the fact that they have greater freedom of speech. We have taken particular pains to provide ourselves with a good representative of the Conservative Party. We have done our best with the Labour Party, and have now three conveners or secretaries of the Committee. With regard to the Labour Party, you will be glad to hear that we have no less a person than the leader, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, and for the Conservative Party, the Hon. J. C. Lyttelton. The secretaries provide us with carefully prepared questions and accurate information to back them up, and upon the decision of the Parliamentary Committee, on your behalf and on behalf of the Society, we interview Ministers. If there is one art more peculiar and more highly specialised in political life than another it is the art of "lobbying," and if there is one person more expert than any I have ever seen in the lobby it is Mr. Harris. In thirteen minutes he accomplishes a great deal more than I accomplished in thirteen hours. And Mr. Travers Buxton, too, is always ready with full and accurate information to take up any démarche that we feel called upon to make to the Government. I think I may say for the members of the Committee that they are a fairly satisfactory mirror of the nation in this regard that we are considering today. We are some of us doing our best at least to represent the feeling in regard to the weaker races, and you are entitled to demand that we shall represent that in the House. We are not unwilling to be used, and there is at least one member here who will verify and support what I say, and I wish there was time to hear a word from him. I mean Mr. Josiah Wedgwood, whom I am glad to see present. He, at all events, is willing to be used, and allows himself to be used incessantly in the cause that you are here to support to-day. Now, to do this work, and to see that this Committee is effective in the House, it does require assistance from the secretaries, and the moral is that you must back up the Society with the sinews of war. But, after all, the people who decide things are the Ministers; and the secretaries, acting alongside our Parliamentary Committee, have done an immense amount of work in seeing Ministers, and I feel that we ought to say about the Ministers that they also have been by no means unwilling to be used and to represent that feeling which is one of the glories of this country—the altruistic and honourable feeling with regard to the weaker races. I think we have done very well in regard to Ministers during the last year, and those who were on the deputation on the cocoa slavery question will all be ready to recognise the energy that Sir Edward Grey desires to put into that and kindred questions. The other day we had occasion to interview the Under Secretary for the Colonies upon the question of coolie labour, and I think we all feel that if we only supply him with the assistance to which he is entitled, Colonel Seely also, and I think

we may say the same of Mr. Harcourt, are perfectly ready to represent energetically what sound feeling there is in this country upon this question. All this comes down to the same question of money, as well as moral interest and support, and I would on the grounds I have mentioned, the interest of Parliamentary work both to us private members and the Ministers, remind you how exceedingly valuable that work is, and urge you to make contributions both of work and money so that you can make this a great success. (Cheers.)

The Rev. J. H. HARRIS: It is something over fifteen years ago now since my wife and I determined to devote our future to the welfare of the people in Africa and the Congo in particular. It is thirteen years ago since we left Liverpool the first time for the Congo, and at that period the Leopodian régime was finding its fullest development in that territory. We very quickly saw unfortunate results of that policy; on every hand barbarous oppression was apparent, and we began to labour at the task of shaking civilisation from the lethargy which seemed to have come upon it. As one looks back to-day, it is with a sense of gratitude to the people of this country for the way in which they have responded to the appeals of the Congo natives. It seemed at first as if none would respond to our appeals, but, coupled as those appeals were in the course of time with the energetic work of Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Fox Bourne, and of course, Mr. Morel, civilisation at last began to wake up to what was in progress in the Congo valley. Then came the investigation of the British Consul, and when the report of Mr. Casement, one of the noblest Civil servants that the British Empire has ever possessed--(cheers)--when that report became public, the cause was advanced a very long way in the minds of the official world. Following upon Mr. Casement's report, King Leopold was driven by public opinion to send out to the Congo a Committee to enquire into the reports which were being received in Europe. It was my duty and privilege to appeal for the natives of the Congo before that Committee of Inquiry, with the result that we finally carried conviction into the minds of the members of that Commission. We felt, that having carried conviction to that Committee, we had pursued our work on the spot in this respect to its utmost limit, and that it was our duty to return to this country and await the publication of King Leopold's Commission. When that report appeared, public opinion, not only in this but other countries, was amazed to find that it was shorn of every scrap of evidence upon which the conclusions of that Commission had been based. Then it seemed to us, possessing as we did a full knowledge of the evidence tendered to that Commission, that our obvious duty was to march round the world, may I say, laying before the public the evidence which had been given to the Commission and which had demonstrated to them the barbarous nature of the system which had been in vogue in the Congo. King Leopold was in turn forced to transfer the territory to the Belgian nation, which

in turn produced a Reforms Bill, which professes to secure to the Congo natives a return of their economic liberty over a period of years. Now, we are receiving from the Congo conflicting reports. One correspondent will tell us that the conditions out there have entirely changed. Another correspondent informs us that unfortunately conditions in his district are exactly what they have been for the last twelve years. Another tells us that the old system has passed away, but that a new system is being introduced, some of the features of which promise to be almost as oppressive upon the natives as the old system which prevailed during the last fifteen years. It therefore seems to be our obvious duty to go out and make a general survey of the situation. (Hear, hear.) I should say, in justice to the Belgian Government, and to the present King, whom we believe is so anxious to do what is right, that the general trend of the representations we receive is an upward trend; but if there is one thing which has disturbed us more than another it is this: When it became known in Belgium that this Society had decided to send us to the Congo. there was a great outcry in the Belgian Press, which is supposed to have authoritative information as to the condition of affairs in the Congo. There is only one interpretation I think to be put on that, and although I admit that it is presumptive evidence, I think it is strong evidence that things are not going so well in the Congo as we had hoped. We are not going forth on this mission in any sense hostile to the Belgian Government and its people. We go forth in the hope that we may be able to gather information which will be encouraging to you, and in the hope that we may be able to find materials upon which we may base some constructive suggestions for the future. We shall look forward to sending you from time to time a general survey of the situation in the different parts of the country. And now I have but one word to say in conclusion. You know that this Society, whilst it is ever ready to criticise the Belgian Government and its administration in the Congo; whilst it is equally ready to criticise the Portuguese Government in connection with the traffic innatives from Angola to San Thomé for the cocoa plantations, this Society is not less ready to criticise its own Government if it finds acts committed in British territory which bring the name and honour of this country into disgrace. (Cheers.) It is neither right nor proper that I should outline to you this afternoon the secondary objects of our mission, but we shall look forward to bringing home to you this time next year a full report of our travels throughout the Congo, and also to lay before you such other information as we have been able to gather in other parts of West Africa as to the treatment of native races. (Cheers.)

Dr. Hodgkin proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, which was heartily agreed to and briefly acknowledged by the Chairman, after which the proceedings terminated.

Obituary.

Rt. Hon. SIR CHARLES DILKE, BART., M.P.

The death of Sir Charles Dilke on the 26th January is a serious loss to our Society, of which he was a Vice-President, and of whose aims and work he was a most uncompromising and energetic supporter. His deep interest in the Aborigines Protection Society and his close association with the late Mr. H. R. Fox Bourne, its Secretary, is well known; at all that society's public meetings Sir Charles Dilke was present and took an active part. He could always be relied on to bring forward any question in which the Society was interested in the House of Commons, and, if necessary, to raise a debate upon it, and it is remarkable, in the case of a public man whose interests were so varied and whose experience of affairs, domestic and foreign, was so wide and well informed, that he was ready to devote his attention to details of the Society's business and to advise the officers of the Society thereon. The truth is that all problems concerned with the welfare of native races lay, as his secretary writes, very near his heart, and he grudged no time or trouble given to advance them.

It is interesting to know that one of the very last letters which he wrote was to the office of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society, and he had already given, through his secretary, a provisional promise to attend a deputation which had been arranged to the Colonial Office on the subject of Coolie labour, and to take part in the Annual Meeting on March 3rd.

As Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee of the Society which was formed last year Sir C. Dilke did valuable service, his long parliamentary experience fitting him in a remarkable degree for the post, and it is but bare truth to say that it will be very difficult to fill the place which his death leaves in the ranks of those who are fighting for native races.

A resolution was passed by the Committee in the following terms:-

The Committee of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society has heard with sorrow of the death of the Rt. Hon. Sir Charles W. Dilke, Bart., M.P., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society. For many years he was a tried friend and supporter of the Aborigines Protection Society, to the work of which he had rendered the greatest services in Parliament and the country by his wide knowledge and experience of questions relating to native races, and his untiring zeal on behalf of the causes which the Society had at heart. Since the amalgamation of the Aborigines Protection Society with the Anti-Slavery Society, Sir Charles Dilke was, up to the last day of his life, in constant communication with the Society's officers on various questions connected with its work, and was ever ready with highly-valued counsels and assistance.

The loss of Sir Charles Dilke's services will also be especially felt on the

Society's Parliamentary Committee, to which he acted as Chairman in the House of Commons.

The Committee begs to assure Sir Charles Dilke's family of their sympathy with them in their bereavement.

The funeral service, which was held at Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Street, was attended by the President, the Vice-Chairman, Sir Henry Cotton, and both the Secretaries as representatives of the Society.

MR. JOSEPH ALLEN.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Joseph Allen on the 17th December last at the age of 85. Mr. Allen was appointed Treasurer of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society in December, 1879, and filled the office for nearly twenty-three years. Although, after leaving London to reside in Devonshire, he was seldom able to attend Committee Meetings, he took a genuine interest in the Society's work, with which he was brought into constant touch through his brother, Mr. Charles H. Allen, who was its well-known Secretary. Mr. Joseph Allen supported the Society's work generously. The Committee passed a resolution of condolence, which was forwarded to the late Mr. Allen's family.

THE RT. HON. R. SPENCE WATSON.

The Society has lost another of its Vice-Presidents through the death, on March 2nd, of Dr. Spence Watson, who throughout his strenuous public life was an uncompromising opponent of slavery and oppression. At the age of seventeen he became Secretary to the Newcastle Anti-Slavery Society, and in 1876 took effective action against the "Fugitive Slave Circular" issued to British naval commanders by Mr. Disraeli's Government, which was forced to bow before the storm raised by this ill-starred measure, so much at variance with British traditions of freedom and British hatred of slavery. We quote from the Daily Chronicle part of a striking confession of faith, taken from one of Dr. Spence Watson's speeches:—

"It is ours to see to it that our fellow-citizens in far-off lands and of alien tongues have the justice and freedom which we claim for ourselves. It is ours to combat tyranny and oppression of whatever kind, wherever and whenever they may be found. It is ours to love our country so well that we cannot bear to see her do wrong to any people."

Dr. Spence Watson, while he was a prominent advocate of Peace, was "ever a fighter" for all causes of truth and righteousness.

Parliamentary.

House of Commons, February 8th, 1911.

RUBBER SLAVERY ON THE PUTUMAYO.

Mr. King asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state when a report may be expected from Consul-General Casement upon the condition of affairs in the rubber plantations of the Putumayo Valley; whether there are employed in that part of the Amazon basin any British subjects, natives of Barbadoes; and, if so, whether these British subjects have been instrumental in carrying out acts of barbarity against the Natives.

Mr. McKinnon Wood: A report has just been received from Mr. Casement, and is under consideration.

February 13th.

Southern Nigeria. Domestic Slavery.

Mr. King asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether a committee has been appointed to inquire into the working of the House Rule Ordinance in Southern Nigeria; and if he can yet state who are the members of that committee and what are the terms of reference.

Mr. HARCOURT: No committee has been appointed as far as I am aware, but I instructed the Governor in December last to make a careful enquiry into the working of the Ordinance, and to furnish me with a report on the subject.

Mr. King asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, under the House Rule Ordinance of Southern Nigeria, it is possible to separate against their will husband and wife who have been married with Christian rites; whether such cases have actually occurred, and, if so, how many have been reported; and whether, under this ordinance, families have been forcibly broken up and the units transferred to different masters in different places.

Mr. HARCOURT: I am aware of no cases in which husbands and wives who have been married with Christian rites have been separated against their will under the Native House Rule Ordinance, and I am advised that such separation could not be enforced under that Ordinance. I will, however, refer my honourable friend's enquiry to the Governor and invite his comments.

February 15th.

Mr. King asked whether a warrant, No. 1881/74, has been issued in Southern Nigeria for the capture of a fugitive domestic named Joe; whether his offence was stated in the warrant to be that of running away from his

master; whether the larceny with which he is also charged in the warrant was really merely the taking away the clothing which he wore; and whether orders can be sent to the Governor of Southern Nigeria that in this and similar cases no fugitive domestic, whether described as servant or slave, shall be forcibly handed over to his employer until a report is received from the Governor upon the House Rule Ordinance under which such fugitive domestics are so dealt with?

Mr. HARCOURT: I am addressing an enquiry to the Governor with reference to this case, as to which no information has reached me. I may observe, however, that as the status of slavery is not recognised in Southern Nigeria the domestic in question cannot be described as a slave.

Mr. King: Would the right hon, gentleman give attention to the matter if I furnished him with a copy of the warrant in this case, which I hold in my hand?

Mr. HARCOURT: It would be of great assistance if the hon. member would supply me with any information which I do not possess.

February 15th.

ANGLO-DUTCH PLANTATIONS OF JAVA, LIMITED.

Mr. Noel Buxton asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a Bill had been introduced into the Dutch House of Parliament for the expropriation of certain concessionaire companies of Java, run largely by forced labour; whether such Bill had yet been passed; and whether one of its effects would be the expropriation of the British Company known as the Anglo-Dutch Plantation Company of Java.

Mr. McKinnon Wood: A Bill has been passed into law by the States-General, empowering the Government to proceed to expropriation, failing purchase by private treaty, of such private lands in Java as it may be considered in the public interest to restore to the State domain. I have no information as to the intention of the Netherlands Government to apply the law to the property of any particular owners.

February 15th.

ALLEGED ABUSES IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

Viscount Castlereach asked the Secretary for State for the Colonies whether his attention had been called to the reports of the Bishop of Melanesia and the Presbyterian missionaries on the violation of the Anglo-French Convention in several of the New Hebrides Islands by the sale of liquor and cartridges to the natives, and by the kidnapping of women and the recruiting of children for illegal purposes; and what action he proposed to take in the matter.

Mr. HARCOURT: My attention has been drawn to the reports to which

the hon. member refers, and I am in communication with the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific on the question of the liquor traffic and of alleged improper recruiting in the New Hebrides. I am fully alive to the importance of the matter.

February 16th.

DISTURBANCE IN GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

Mr. J. LYTTELTON asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs what compensation, if any, had been paid to the relatives of the Kaffirs, being British subjects, killed and the men injured in the recent collision between the railway officials and their employees in German South-West Africa, and whether any censure or punishment has been passed upon the persons responsible for calling in the military to shoot the British Kaffirs in German South-West Africa without first making representation to the civil authority of the German Government.

Sir E. Grey: I have not heard that any compensation has yet been paid to the men injured or to the relatives of the deceased, and His Majesty's Government are not aware that any punishment has been inflicted on the persons responsible for calling in the military at Wilhelmsthal. A communication has recently been received from the Union Government in regard to the incident, and is now under consideration with a view to a communication being made to the German Government.

Mr. J. LYTTELTON asked what number of German soldiers, if any, were injured in the recent attack upon the British Kaffirs employed by the German Railway Company in German South-West Africa.

Sir E. GREY: I am not aware that any German soldiers were injured in the affray.

March 7th.

SAN THOME SLAVES.

Mr. T. E. HARVEY asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Governor of the islands of San Thomé and Principé had recently given permission to the Empreza Nacional Steamship Company to convey 800 serviçaes from Angola in the steamship Cazengo to the islands of San Thomé and Principé.

Sir E. Grey: I have just received information from His Majesty's Consul at Loanda that the Governor has given permission for the conveyance of 300 serviçaes. I have asked for information as to how these men were recruited, as—in accordance with the terms of the new regulations—the method of recruiting ought to be a matter of public knowledge.

Slave Dealing in Angola.

Information has been received through our corresponding member in Lisbon from a missionary in Angola, who wrote in November last his personal experience of slave dealings still going on openly in the Bihé district.

An extract from his letter follows:-

"In September, when we were going to the Quanza, we travelled along the slave route for about twenty miles only, but during that brief journey we met several companies of Bihéans with Luandu slaves. These had been bought, in most cases, for a few shillings' worth of maize. One poor fellow had been shamefully treated—his ankles being rubbed raw by the rough shackles which he was carrying, and with which he was nightly secured in camp. To remonstrate with such slave dealers is useless, and one felt that the most effectual way of showing our disgust at such wicked practices was to free the man there and then, which we did. Hearing of what we had done, a Portuguese trader remarked to a native that to have allowed the man to have been brought on to Bihé would have been doing him a greater kindness than sending him back to his own country, where he will probably die of starvation. Such are the specious arguments with which these natives are being armed by the traders. Is it any wonder that one hears the remark from the native, 'It is a kindness to buy the Va-Luandu and bring them to Bihé '?

"Many Va-Luandu have been bought recently by the Bihéans of this neighbourhood. In fact, in a village not more than 400 yards away, there are at present ten Luandu slaves, brought here within the last month or so, No. 11 having been sold to a trader (Portuguese) near by, for it is said, 160 yards of calico plus two bottles of rum—total value, say, £3. The above consisted of five young lads, five girls, and one woman with an infant. The last mentioned was sold to the trader. Think of the native slave dealers' profits, and what an incentive to an unscrupulous, covetous man! And is there not some plausibility in the argument, 'Why should we stop buying slaves while the whites create the demand?'

"The vigilance and severity of the Belgian officers have made slave-trading, within their sphere of influence, too risky a business, except for the most daring. But the astute Bihéan is not easily thwarted, and if the door to the Luba country is closed to him he will not rest satisfied until he finds some place where he can carry on his nefarious trade. This he has found in the Luandu country, which offers advantages and facilities which he did not enjoy in the far-off Luba. It is evident that if the authorities do not take some steps to stop this wholesale deportation of these people, their country must soon

become dispeopled. So poorly policed are these parts that the Bihéans have no fear of official molestation, nor is there any need for them to take even the most ordinary precautions, such as concealing shackles, following obscure or by-paths, sending out scouts, etc."

Abolition of Corvée in Matal.

It having been announced that Mr. Burton, the Union Minister for Native Affairs, had resolved to abolish the corvée or sibalo system in Natal, which has been hitherto put into operation every year by official request of the Secretary for Native Affairs to the Government, the Committee passed the following resolution, which was sent to the Colonial Secretary, and has been duly acknowledged, and a copy forwarded by the Colonial Office to the Governor General of the Union of South Africa for the information of his Ministers:—

The Committee of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society has learnt with satisfaction of the decision of the Minister for Native Affairs of South Africa to abolish, as from the end of last year, the corvée system in Natal, whereby under the Native Code natives have been liable to compulsory service on roads and other public works in that colony at a rate of wages lower than the ruling rate, and desires to express its appreciation of the action of the Government of the Union of South Africa in thus removing a serious native grievance.

Slave Trading in the Indian Ocean.

WE have from time to time received reports of the trade in slaves which still goes on in the southern part of the Red Sea, and in 1908 the Society had information of an increase in the trade, owing to the absence for six months of the guard-ship usually stationed at Aden. The increase was officially contradicted; but it was reported to the Society from a trustworthy source that the cruisers at Aden and Berbera are of little use for checking the trade, owing to their size and slowness, and the fact that their movements are perfectly well known to the agents of the slave dealers.

The existence of this trade is borne out by a statement which was published not long ago in the French newspaper Le Matin, in the form of a letter from the port of Jibuti, which points to the close connection between the traffic in arms from the East Coast of Africa, of which much has lately been heard, and the trade in slaves. The writer asserts that the authorities are well aware of the traffic in slaves which is carried on between Equatorial Africa and Arabia, via the port of Tajura in French Somaliland, but that the single Government vessel stationed in the Gulf

of Tajura is powerless to prevent it. The caravans bring the slaves down to the coast, and then return, the writer states, with arms and ammunition, which, although nominally consigned to Arabia, have been landed at Tajura on the way. After making some serious allegations against the authorities for conniving at this traffic, the writer points out the necessity of combined action between the various Governments interested, in order that the slave trade in Equatorial Africa may be definitely eradicated.

It will be remembered that Lord Cromer's official reports of the slave trade in the Egyptian Soudan frequently pointed out the extreme difficulty of entirely stopping the export of slaves from the coast to Arabia and to Turkish ports, in spite of the efforts of the Slave Trade Department and the preventive measures taken.

The last report of the Zanzibar International Maritime Bureau also referred to a slight recrudescence of slave dealing having taken place from the coasts of that island. There can be no doubt of the fact, which has been so often pointed out, that it is practically impossible to put an end altogether to the export of slaves so long as the demand for them continues, and public markets exist at Muscat, or Mecca, or Constantinople, where they fetch high prices.

Freed Women Slaves at Tangier.

THE following report for the year 1910 has been received from Miss Drummond Hay, who acts as President of the Fund. A certain number of subscriptions are collected from the Legations and from other Europeans in Tangier, but those responsible for this unobtrusive work of charity are obliged also to look to friends in England, and this year the balance in hand is lower than usual. Any donations for this object will be gladly received and forwarded by Mr. Henry Gurney, The Orchards, Outwood, Surrey.

"Three of the women have died during the past year, and are replaced by a blind woman and two cripples. Eight have huts rent free and receive two pesetas a week; five women receive one peseta a week, but are not given shelter.

"Every year the women receive haiks (or blankets) and shirts once a year. Miss Winslow still kindly distributes the doles and visits the women.

"Funds are urgently needed, for the balance at this present month is little over two hundred dollars, and that will barely cover the weekly doles for the year."

Universal Races Congress.

A Congress, of which the Right Hon. Lord Weardale is the President, is to be held under this name from the 26th to 29th July next, at the University of London.

The objects of the Congress are stated to be-

"To discuss, in the light of modern knowledge and the modern conscience, the general relations subsisting between the peoples of the West and those of the East, between so-called white and so-called coloured peoples, with a view to encouraging between them a fuller understanding, the most friendly feelings, and a heartier co-operation. Political issues of the hour will be subordinated to this comprehensive end, in the firm belief that when once mutual respect is established, difficulties of every type will be sympathetically approached and readily solved."

Special treatment will be accorded to the problem of the contact of European with other developed types of civilisation, such as the Chinese, Japanese, Indian, Turkish, and Persian. The hope expressed by the promoters of the Congress, which is pledged to no political party and to no particular scheme of reforms, is that the representatives of native races may meet each other face to face, and may be able, in friendly rivalry to further the cause of mutual trust and respect between East and West, between white and coloured peoples.

The Congress will not discuss purely European questions, and will avoid all bitterness towards parties, peoples, or governments, although, of course, allowing full freedom for reasoned criticisms.

The following subjects will be considered in the programme arranged for the eight half-day Sessions:—1. Fundamental Considerations—Meaning of Race, Tribe, Nation. 2-3. General Conditions of Progress. 3a. Peaceful Contact between Civilisations. 4. Special Problems in Inter-Racial Economics. 5-6. The Modern Conscience in Relation to Racial Questions. 7-8. Positive Suggestions for Promoting Inter-Racial Friendliness.

The supporters of the Congress hail from no less than fifty countries, and include twenty-five Presidents of Parliaments, the majority of the Members of the Hague Court of Arbitration, twelve British Governors and eight British Premiers, over forty Colonial Bishops, and a large number of other distinguished persons. The writers of papers will include representatives of over twenty civilisations.

All information may be obtained from the Honorary Organiser and General Secretary, Mr. G. Spiller, 63, South Hill Park, Hampstead, N.W.

Review.

"THE KHALIFATE OF THE WEST."*

out to their visit rises By Donald Mackenzie. Hit william blad

WE welcome this interesting volume by Mr. Mackenzie, who is qualified, as few other Englishmen can be, to write with authority about Morocco, where he has travelled so much, and in the affairs of which he has taken an active interest for many years. His main object in writing is to call renewed attention to the condition of "The Sick Man of the West," and to urge British public opinion to insist on the reformation of a barbarous Government which is a disgrace to the twentieth century and to the European Powers, whose jealousies have allowed this anachronism to go on unchecked in a State within thirty miles of Gibraltar. Mr. Mackenzie has visited



SOKO, TANGIER.

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Morocco in the interests both of humanitarianism and of commerce; and while the former class of questions is that which has chiefly occupied him, and induced him to write this book, the chapters in which he describes the establishment of a British settlement at Cape Juby, and the difficulties and perils encountered in that enterprise, by which it was hoped to get a foothold on the African coast which might have opened a great route for trade to the centre of the Continent, are well worth perusal.

For a variety of reasons, discussed in these pages, effective action against the abuses of Morocco misgovernment has been always very difficult, and for some years past the door has unhappily been almost

^{*} Simpkin, Marshall & Co., Ltd.

entirely closed to British intervention. By the Anglo-French Agreement of 1905 France was given the absolute control over Moorish affairs—a policy which Mr. Mackenzie considers very unwise, and which has certainly had the effect of retarding our action in pressing for reforms in the slavery and prison systems. Mr. Mackenzie devotes a chapter to the slave trade and slavery in Morocco, against which the Anti-Slavery Society has long fought. As long ago as 1844 the Society sent out an address for presentation to the then Sultan, which never got beyond Mogador, owing to the refusal of the Governor of that city to forward it. In 1882 the Society made representations to our Government against the public sale of slaves in port towns, which was in consequence prohibited by the Sultan's orders. In 1885 Mr. Charles Allen, the late Secretary of the Society, visited Morocco with Mr. Crawford, and held in Tangier, in December of that year, the first Anti-Slavery meeting ever held in the Sultan's dominions. Mr. Mackenzie holds that Mr. Allen's visit did much service in drawing public attention to Morocco abuses, and that his subsequent journey on behalf of the Society to North Africa with Mr. Henry Gurney in 1891-when Tripoli and Tunis were also visited-helped to keep the question alive. In 1887 Mr. Donald Mackenzie himself visited the Sultan's Court and presented an address from the Anti-Slavery Society to his Majesty through the good offices of Sir W. Kirby Green, who was then British Representative and took a keen interest in the slavery question. Other British Ministers have from time to time made representations with more or less of success, and Mr. Mackenzie makes the moderate proposal that our Government should at least ask the Sultan to close the slave-markets in every Morocco town where a British Consular Agent resides.

Referring to the resolution in regard to slavery, which was brought before the Algeciras Conference, Mr. Mackenzie writes (p. 237):—

"We have never attempted to negotiate a treaty with the Sultan of Morocco for the abolition of slavery, although we have done so for Turkey and other Mohammedan countries. No effectual stop can be put to this traffic in Morocco without a definite treaty for its abolition. This matter should be pressed on the attention of the Sultan by our Government. Resolutions may prove a stepping-stone to total abolition, but by itself it will not effect much."

Another crying evil in Morocco is the protégé system under which foreign protection from taxation and Government exactions is granted to certain persons, originally in order that agents of European merchants in the country might carry on trade without fear of seizure and imprisonment. Then rich Moors, seeing the advantage of foreign protection, were willing to pay large sums to those who would give it to enable them to avoid the tax-gatherer. The selling of protection by Consular agents became a great scandal, and many years ago representations were made by the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Societies which led to inquiries being made, and

in 1890 Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Henry Gurney made a special journey to Morocco to investigate the question, which is one of the most troublesome in Moorish affairs. Efforts have been made, as far as British subjects are concerned, to modify the granting of protection, which is often desired, not only as a safeguard against being oppressed but as a means of being able to oppress. The system is, of course, the direct result of the inefficient character of the Government.

An important part of Mr. Mackenzie's book is that which deals with the state of prisons in Morocco, and the urgent need of reform in this direction also. The Howard Association and individuals, such as Mr. H. Gurney and the late Miss Charlotte Hanbury, have for a long time past made vigorous efforts to secure reforms; and in the late Sultan's time much



TANGIER

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improvement was promised and some was secured. Recent reports are, however, of a very discouraging character, as will be seen from the reply of the Foreign Office to representations made last year, when extracts from official reports from British Consular officers were published, which show a deplorable state of things. These extracts are given in full in this volume and should be read.

The official answer given by our Foreign Office to all questions and complaints regarding abuses, and the proposal that mixed Courts should be established in the country for the administration of justice for natives and foreigners, is that our Government "is not in a position to reform the internal administration of Morocco outside the scope of British treaty rights." In reference to this Mr. Mackenzie writes (p. 136):—

"We never expected or suggested that His Majesty's Government should

undertake alone the reform of the internal affairs of Morocco, and one can fully realise the difficulty that stands in the way of a Government interfering in the affairs of another country, but it must be borne in mind that Morocco is not a civilised State, and we have interfered in the past in its internal affairs, sometimes united with other Powers and sometimes alone.

"No treaty confers this privilege or right upon us in any way, yet Sir E, Grey states that we cannot interefere in reforming the internal affairs of Morocco outside the scope of British treaty rights. This would mean that we ought not to protest against slavery, or the state of Moorish prisons, or any other barbarity that may happen there, so that our efforts in that direction would be in vain. I cannot believe that this is the present policy



A MOROCCO POSTMAN

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of the British Foreign Office, and, as an indication of this, Sir E. Grey states that he is in communication with His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, relative to the state of Moorish prisons in Morocco. We hope that he will see his way to approach the Powers with a view to the establishment in Morocco of mixed tribunals and the withdrawal of Consular protection as the only feasible remedy for the present unsatisfactory state of Moorish prisons and the poor wretches who inhabit them. France, Spain, and other Powers cannot hold back if approached and asked to aid in this laudable purpose, an act of justice to the down-trodden races of Morocco."

We understand that Mr. Mackenzie is on the point of again visiting Morocco for the purpose of inquiring into the prisons and slave questions, and we heartily wish him success in his devoted efforts to bring about better conditions in that unhappy country.

THE MISSES COLENSO.

In consequence of unfortunate differences which have arisen in connection with the occupation by the Misses Colenso of the Bishopstowe Mission Station in Natal, long the scene of their own and of their father's, Bishop Colenso's, devoted labour among the African natives, these ladies have been dispossessed from their home under the Chunch Properties Act, and their work broken up. We are asked to call atter to a proposal, which has been made by Mr. C. de B. Persse and other aends of the Misses Colenso's work, to re-establish the mission station on other land, and so form a new centre for continuing their beneficent activities. The proposal is that a farm should be bought in the neighbourhood of their old home, near Pietermaritzburg, and an industrial training institution for natives started, with an agricultural school attached, to be developed somewhat on the lines of Lovedale College in Cape Colony, of which Miss Colenso and her sister would be the heads. It is estimated that the scheme could be set on foot for about £2,000.

Those interested in the proposal, and willing to assist in it, are requested to communicate with the Society.

CONGO INVESTIGATION FUND.

WE have pleasure in publishing a list of contributors to the fund for Mr. and Mrs. Harris's tour of investigation in the Congo, etc., complete up to March 21st:—

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